



# Port Gardner Neighborhood Association News



## November, 2016

**Next Meeting – Monday, November 14, 2016 at 7 PM**

**We will meet at our new location in the Resource Room of the Port Gardner Building on the west side of the Sequoia High School parking lot at 35<sup>th</sup> and Grand Av.**

**Agenda:** 6:45 - Meet and Greet; 7:00 - Police Report; 7:15 – Leann Christensen, VOA Food Bank; 7:45 – Keith Alewine, Public Works Department; 8:15 - 2017 mini-grants and announcements.

### **November Meeting Speakers and Food Drive**

**Leann Christensen from the Volunteers of America Food Bank** will speak at the meeting about what is going on at the food bank at this busy time of year. We will also have a food drive to help out. If you can afford to bring some food to the November meeting, it will be much appreciated by those who may not have much this year. Suggested items are as follows, and Leann will happily accept money as the most flexible donation of all:

Canned beans, dry beans, condiments, baking items, cereal, boxed meals, canned fruit, canned vegetables, toiletries, tomato sauce, canned meat, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, rice, soup, shelf-stable milk, spices.

Also speaking at this meeting will be **Keith Alewine from the City of Everett Public Works Department**. He will tell us about the Freight Mobility Project which is currently underway on Pacific Ave. Improvements along Pacific Ave, between W. Marine View Dr. to Rucker Ave. and intersection improvements at 41st & Rucker will make it easier for large trucks to travel between the Port of Everett and the I-5 intersection at 41<sup>st</sup>. St. The project will create larger turning radii and add ADA improvements at the intersections while benefitting traffic flow along the route. You can see a map of the project location at <https://www.everettwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4964>

### **October Meeting Re-cap**

Drew Kelly, who was sick and could not speak at the September meeting, but he did talk at our October meeting about his hopes to create an Eagle Scout project at the Warren St. overlook. His ideas are not fully crystallized, but he would like to install some kind of interpretive signage and perhaps build a fence.

The members who were present at the meeting also discussed the current ballot initiative measures 732 and 735. PGNA did not take a position on either side of the issues.

### **Soctoberfest Report**

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who either donated socks or money or both for the annual Sock Drive. It resulted in 94 pairs of socks that will be most appreciated this winter by those of our neighbors who happen to be less fortunate than we are.

## Dean's Doodles

By October 30, Seattle had received 9.39 inches of rain in October. That's a new record. UW climatologists have warned us that Climate Change is here. We will be warmer and wetter. More rain, less snow. More flooded rivers.

Good News, Bad News:

Lighthouse Resources, which operates coal mines in Wyoming and Montana, has withdrawn from participation in the Morrow, OR, proposed coal terminal. That's the good news from a climate change perspective. Instead, they plan to ship 11-13 trainloads of coal each week through the Westshore Terminal in British Columbia. That means those trains will now pass through all of Western Washington, including Snohomish County and the Port Gardner Neighborhood. We have been seeing 1-2 coal trains each day for the past year or so. Now that will increase to 4 or more. The dangers to our neighborhood are increased coal dust (see following article), noise, and seismic impact on the fragile bluffs along Puget Sound. Since the federal government regulates the railroad industry (interstate commerce), there is not much we can do about this locally.

Environmental groups sue BNSF:

Several local and national environmental groups have brought a lawsuit against BNSF for releasing coal dust into our waterways. Last week, a federal court judge in Seattle upheld the environmentalist's position in a BNSF attempt to dismiss the suit. It will go to trial in early November. This is a big one for the northwest.

Local Train Watch wins Voice of the Community award from KSER:

Some of you have participated in our annual Train Watch during April in 2014, 2015, and 2016. We have assembled 30-40 people and sat by the tracks in 4-hour shifts to count the numbers of fossil fuel trains passing through our county. This year, we were nominated for the VOC award for Community Impact by an Organization for that effort. In accepting the award, I noted that we are probably the least organized group in the county, more like a flash mob. Nonetheless, we have had an impact with the Department of Ecology and the State Legislature. Actual data from the people affected means more than corporate statistics. That's good to know.

## Holiday Party and Desert Auction, Thursday, December 8

The Port Gardner Neighborhood Association cordially invites you to our annual holiday pot luck and dessert benefit auction at the beautiful **Van Valey House, 2130 Colby Ave. on Thursday, December 8, from 6:30–9:00 PM.** Those of you who attended last year's celebration know what a fun evening this will be. Watch for details in the December newsletter.

## **Council of Neighborhoods Report**

Mayor Stephanson urges citizens to support the low-barrier housing effort at 62<sup>nd</sup> and Berkshire.

Everett Metro Plan continues with emphasis around Everett Station and the West End serving California and Hewitt.

The Children's Hospital, north of Providence Regional Medical Center, will provide clinical services especially for those in the north region alleviating trips to Seattle.

The city welcomes the arrival of two destroyers to the Navy Home Port and awaits the arrival of a third.

## **Metro Everett Update**

On October 6 the Planning Department held its second Metro Everett public presentation and open house at the Weyerhaeuser Room in Everett Station. Planners continue to refine what they hope to see in the future in the area of the city which has been labeled Metro Everett. The area around Everett Station, including the ten-acre parcel where Lowes is currently located, is slated for major changes. If you missed the public meeting, you can read the latest comprehensive planning document entitled Metro Everett Action Strategy Report, September 2016 at <file:///C:/Users/Bob/AppData/Local/Temp/Metro%20Everett%20Draft%20Action%20Strategy%20Report%209.26.16.pdf>

## **Welcoming a New Business to Port Gardner at Potala Place**

Finally, there's some progress! The **Choux Choux Bakery** is now open. The Potala Place luxury apartment building on Grand Ave. between Hewitt Ave. and Wall St. has long had many tenants occupying the apartments. But the development of the promised all-year market and other retail operations on the ground floor came to a screeching halt last year when the developer, Lobsang Dargey, ran into legal difficulty with the Securities and Exchange Commission. His assets, and those of his company, Path America, were frozen. Recently a judge gave the receiver appointed to handle the assets permission to allow completion of the retail development.

The first space to be completed is the Choux Choux Bakery (pronounced "shoe shoe" and having lots of reference to cream). Think delicious, instead of diet food. They are open daily from 7 to 4, except Tuesdays, in a very bright space, and hope to expand their hours when (if?) the promised farmer's market opens. There does not appear to be any sign yet of any other businesses on the ground floor resuming development. So, for now, enjoy a twice baked almond croissant and coffee while you sit and imagine what the building will be like when its retail spaces are fully occupied. You can even play one of Choux Choux's many LPs (those of you over fifty or so may remember when music came on these things) while you enjoy your breakfast or lunch. Their website is <http://chouxchouxbakery.com>

## **Forgotten Creek Work Party, Saturday, November 12**

Friends of Forgotten Creek will hold their final work party of the year on **Saturday, November 12 from 10 AM to Noon**. Each year the restoration cycle culminates with volunteers planting native trees and shrubs bringing the Forgotten Creek Natural Area one step closer to being a restored urban forest. If you would like to help, meet at the lower north entrance on the south end of Bond St. downhill from the intersection with Kromer Ave. Tools are provided.

## **PGNA Executive Board and Contacts**

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**Our regular Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1440228289617317/>

**Our Facebook emergency planning** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1683907258561630/>